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EQUAL RIGHTS

"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress

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Victory Scored Against I. L. O. Treaty Proposal

An Appreciation Of Marianne Hainisch

By HELENE GRANITSCH

Viennese Feminist, former President of the Austrian Woman's Party, who recently arrived in America

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Georgia Branch Of Party Reorganizes For Campaign

World Party Officer En Route To Geneva

April 15, 1939

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

Washington, D. C.

Vol. 25, No. 8 Price Five Cents

Equal Rights

Official Organ
of the
NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
Capitol Hill Washington, D. C.
Phone Atlantic 1210

Published Semi-Monthly at
144 B Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription, $1.00 a Year
Foreign Subscription, $1.50

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator John G. Townsend, (Del.), and Senator Edward R. Burke, (Neb.), Jan. 4, 1939, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 7).

House—By Representative Louis Ludlow, (Ind.), Jan. 3, 1939, (House Joint Resolution No. 2).
By Representative U. S. Guyer, (Kans.), Jan. 3, 1939, (House Joint Resolution No. 27).
By Representative Ambrose J. Kennedy, (Md.), Jan. 3, 1939, (House Joint Resolution No. 25).

Present Status

Senate—Before Judiciary Committee.

House—Before Judiciary Committee.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

"Art. 1—The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this Treaty men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed

By Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay, at Montevideo, December, 1933.

PROPOSED EQUALITY AMENDMENTS TO COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries the right of vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice regarding nationality."

"The members of the League undertake that in their respective countries men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields."

"The members of the League undertake that there shall be both men and women, with full voting powers, in all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League."

Present Status

Before the League of Nations Committee on Status of Women.

Tell Them The Truth

AT A RECENT meeting of the Trade Union League in Washington, D. C., there were distributed pamphlets dealing with what was called the "threat" of the Equal Rights Amendment. The cover caption was "Equal Rights *Or* Equality and Protective Legislation," above the sketch of a woman wearing a blindfold labeled "Equal Rights" and holding before her a paper—"Protective Legislation."

Charging that labor legislation for women "is today being threatened by two simple, high-sounding sentences of the Amendment," the pamphlet recommended to the gathering of wage-earning women, restrictive laws, supposedly designed to protect them. It was the irony of fate that at the same meeting, girls arose to ask why something could not be done to stop discriminations against them merely because they were women. Someone *should* have told them that the Equal Rights Amendment would stop discriminations imposed by law, through which women are actually losing jobs.

In the face of the tragic fact of women losing employment, it borders on the criminal when they are offered in the name of "protection," legislation which they are finding, to their sorrow, is depriving them of their livelihood. The subject is far too serious to dismiss with a wave of the hand or a facetious reference to the Equal Rights Amendment.

"Are they concerned," asks the pamphlet, speaking of proponents of the Amendment, "because wives are not responsible for their husbands' support or that husbands are not compelled to render services in the home? Are they opposed to maternity protection laws unless such protection is provided also for men? The proponents speak of freedom of contract, but freedom of contract doesn't exist where individuals must take the first job offered or face starvation."

All this and more is either for the purpose of beclouding the issue, or is the result of a woeful lack of information on the subject. If sponsors of the pamphlet were correctly informed, they would know that the Amendment is no bar to pensions, maternity protection or to protective laws for workers. They are substituting bugaboos for facts. By speaking derisively of the Amendment they seek to convince wage-earning women that restriction is preferable to equality.

Why do they not frankly tell women the truth—that there can be no industrial equality until there is legal equality? Why do they not tell them that it is because of these unequal laws applying to women only, that discriminations against them continue to pile up? Women who work should know by now that these laws are the root of much of their trouble.

Sponsors of the pamphlet say: "We believe in labor legislation for both men and women." Then why do they not sponsor it and work for it? In state after state they have offered such laws covering women only, with no effort whatever to include men. They tell you that they cannot secure protective laws for both men and women. Look at the record. They have not *tried* and *failed*. They have not even introduced equal laws.

The Nationwide Wage Hour Law applies equally to all workers. Why? Because the Woman's Party discovered the unequal provision in the original draft and led the successful fight for its elimination.

Refusing to recognize facts does not alter them. Honest mistakes are often unavoidable. Through experience we grow. It is not the mistake, but the perpetuation of the mistake that is inexcusable. The hope of wage-earning women—all women—is in Equal Rights, not restrictive laws. Why not tell them the truth?

Victory Scored Against I. L. O. Treaty Proposal

THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, aided by a number of other women's organizations, has won its fight against the proposal of the International Labor Organization at Geneva, to restrict by international treaty the right of certain women to contract for their own employment.

On April 3, Senator Arthur Capper, of Kansas, whose Senate Resolution No. 82 sought to request the American delegation to the I. L. O. in June, to oppose the proposed Treaty, received from Frances Perkins, United States Secretary of Labor, a letter stating that the I. L. O. had deleted from the Treaty that section "dealing with the conditions of employment of women."

Under date of March 31, Secretary Perkins wrote to Senator Pittman, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to which the Capper Resolution was referred: "In further reference to your letter of March 8 pertaining to Senate Resolution No. 82 submitted by Senator Capper in regard to a proposed convention of the International Labor Organization on the regulation of contracts of indigenous workers, I have today received information from Geneva that the section of the proposed convention dealing with conditions of employment of women has been deleted from the draft convention which will be submitted to the Conference in June."

While Miss Perkins, in her letter, stated that replies from many member countries of the I. L. O. dealing with the question did not "evidence sufficient interest in the problem to warrant its inclusion in the treaty," it is believed that the fight waged in the United States under leadership of the National Woman's Party, caused its abandonment.

There was an attempt to minimize the importance to the United States of the proposed treaty by pointing out that it would affect only "indigenous" women, who, according to Isador Lubin, of the Department of Labor, were "those living in tropical or sub-tropical territories dependent on a member country of the I. L. O."

On the other hand, the questionnaire submitted to member countries of the I. L. O., sounding out sentiment on the question, attempted to define the term "indigenous workers," as those "belonging to or assimilated to the indigenous population of dependent territories of members of the Organization and workers belonging to or assimilated to the dependent indigenous populations of the home territories of members of the Organization."

The National Woman's Party held that the United States had a vital interest in the question since even the definition suggested in the questionnaire would cover Indian women on reservations in the United States, women in Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico and other territories.

The Woman's Party contended that there was no assurance that the I. L. O. Conference in June would accept the suggested definition of "indigenous" and that the proposal constituted a threat to all women.

Commenting upon Miss Perkins' letter, Senator Capper, whose resolution is still before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is a member, said:

"I regard this as a great triumph for all women and for a principle of human freedom. It is gratifying that we should have been able to win this response to our protests. I believe that this experience will make all American delegations to the I. L. O. more than ever alert in protecting American standards of equal treatment for all citizens, men and women alike."

Alice Paul, founder of the National Woman's Party and Chairman of the newly formed World Woman's Party, said upon learning of the action taken by the I. L. O.:

"We rejoice in the elimination of all discrimination against women from this proposed Treaty from Geneva. American women have had a vital interest in this Treaty because it seemed probable that it would cover Indian women on Indian reservations in continental United States and many women in Puerto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam and other territories of the United States.

"A precedent of woman-worker restrictions once established for one group by a world-wide Treaty would be of serious concern to all women. Such a policy in a world ridden by unemployment and reaction might easily advance to a point jeopardizing the position of all women. We have therefore opposed the proposed section of the Treaty relating specifically to women and we are happy that it has been eliminated. It is a big victory for the Equality Cause in the international field."

Representatives of United States territories objected to the whole purport of the Treaty as in line with foreign colonial administrations and contrary to former United States policy by which territories are treated as integral parts of the United States. It was held that the treaty would affect native workers adversely and that territorial legislatures are able to give them any necessary protection.

Delegates to Congress from Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska and the Philippines registered their opposition to the Treaty and their support of the Capper resolution. The legislature of Puerto Rico adopted a resolution supporting the Capper resolution, and numbers of Women's Organizations of Puerto Rico cabled their support.

The joint resolution, unanimously adopted by the Puerto Rican legislature, protesting the proposed Treaty and urging approval of the Capper Resolution by the United States Senate, was presented in the Senate by Senator Maria Perez de Almiroty and in the House by the only woman member of that body, Representative Maria Luisa Arcelay.

Muna De Munoz Marin and Theresa Amadeo, Puerto Rican Representatives of the World Woman's Party, were outstanding in their successful efforts to make the voice of Puerto Rico heard on this subject of vital concern to its people. The April 1 issue of EQUAL RIGHTS carried a list of Puerto Rican women and organizations cabling to Washington their support of the Capper resolution.

American Women's Organizations supporting the Capper resolution include the National Woman's Party, the National Association of Women Lawyers, the District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Council of Women, Business Women's Legislative Council of California, Fairmont Business and Professional Women's Club, Fairmont, Minnesota, the California W. I. L., and others.

Mrs. M. L. Kayser, of the California W. I. L., immediately following endorsement of the Capper resolution by that branch, telephoned Alice Paul in Washington, apprising her of the action. Mrs. Amy C. Ransome, third Vice Chairman of the Woman's Party and assistant treasurer of the World Woman's Party, had previously presented the matter to the branch.

(Continued on Page 63)

An Appreciation Of Marianne Hainisch

(Mother of the former President of the Austrian Republic—the 100th anniversary of whose birth occurs on March 25, 1939.)

By Helene Granitsch

Viennese Feminist, former President of the Austrian Woman's Party, who recently arrived in America

MARCH 25, 1939, is significant as the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Marianne Hainisch, well-known Austrian woman leader, who was born in the little resort of Baden, near Vienna.

Marianne Hainisch fought untiringly throughout her busy life for the educational opportunity and economic freedom of women. This was the goal ever before her. In the year 1872 she gave a talk, memorable in the history of the woman movement. It proved a milestone in women's emancipation in that it helped to bring about the first industrial unions for women in Vienna. Up to that time the only occupations open to women had been those of teacher, governess, domestic servant, and sometimes actress and artist. The speech of this courageous woman created tremendous excitement.

At that time it was unheard of in Austria for a woman to dare to mount the rostrum. Marianne Hainisch dared public opinion for the sake of women. Almost immediately after her talk, the lower schools and then the high schools were opened to Austrian women. Moreover, gifted girls were, from this time on, permitted to enter the "Gymnasien" open previously only to boys. They also were allowed to attend the University lectures in Medicine, Philosophy and Jurisprudence. A revolution took place in social life. Whereas formerly, women — especially unmarried women—were the source of many jokes in the comic European pictorial journals, these began to disappear, and in their place appeared the figure of woman as an independent, professionally established, useful member of society.

Marianne Hainisch was one of the first European women leaders who brought about a union with the National Woman's Party of the United States, to work for equal rights for women. When in the years of 1925 and 1926 the first representatives of the National Woman's Party—Anita Pollitzer of South Carolina, Margaret Whittemore of Michigan, and Mary Carolyn Taylor of Illinois—came to Austria, and met with me, the then leader of the "Hausfrauen-Bewegung," I took each one of them to visit our venerable leader of the woman movement, Marianne Hainisch. It became clear to these women that Frau Hainisch must be acclaimed a leader of the European and American feminist work, which had a similar object.

Frau Hainisch was at that time almost ninety years of age. She ardently approved of the equal rights campaign, and in her little dwelling in Vienna, the first conferences between the American and Austrian women took place. The result of this was that in 1928, the Austrian Woman's Party was founded, with Marianne Hainisch as President and Helene Granitsch as Vice-President. The Austrian Woman's Party worked from that time on in closest contact with the National Woman's Party in the United States. They published a weekly newspaper, *"Das Wort der Frau."* This periodical gave weekly news of the woman movement in the United States.

When Alice Paul and Margaret Whittemore founded the Woman's Consultative Committee of the League of Nations, to which the women's organizations sent delegates who worked in Geneva, the Austrian Woman's Party sent its Vice-President, Helene Granitsch, and the work for equal nationality rights for women for which a campaign was waged, was furthered by great activity in Austria. From this time on, Marianne Hainisch interested herself most earnestly in the International Equality Program launched by Alice Paul, and she often said to me, whom she named in 1933 to succeed her as President of the Austrian "Frauenschaft," that the work of Alice Paul reminded her very much of the energetic deeds of Susan B. Anthony.

Frau Hainisch knew Miss Anthony personally. She had visited her on the occasion of her lecture tour through the United States. She had become convinced through her experiences in America that the woman movement should be non-partisan. She wished for a union of all women, regardless of nationality, race, class or religion. Only then, she felt, could women attain results for humanity, for justice, for peace, and for the democratic ideal.

Frau Hainisch longed with all her heart for a comprehensive, all-embracing world organization of all classes of women, which would be strong enough to lift great human problems above political strife, and the other motives which now divide mankind. She longed to see established, a union of women which would lead to the higher development of the individual. The program of the World Woman's Party, founded this year by Alice Paul, expresses the dream and wish of Marianne Hainisch, who was one of the greatest women of the century.

Laura Berrien Convention Speaker

Laura Berrien, President of the National Association of Women Lawyers and Treasurer of the National Woman's Party, was a guest speaker at the forty-fourth Convention of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, held the latter part of March in LaGrange, Ga.

A native Georgian, Miss Berrien was presented to the clubwomen of her home state by Mrs. Marvin Medlock, chairman of the Federation legislative department. She spoke on "The Nation's Legislative Program" and discussed the scope of both national and state legislation. Equal rights for women, she declared, should be guaranteed by national legislation.

Another Woman's Party guest at the Convention was Mrs. Clara Snell Wolfe, Woman's Party Organization Chairman, who was introduced to the assemblage by Mrs. Medlock.

National Council of Women

"Human Relations in Economics and Social Life" will be the theme of the biennial meeting and Institute of Leadership of the National Council of Women, to be held at Hotel Commodore, Lexington Avenue and Forty-second Streets, New York City, May 24, 25, 26.

The program will include addresses, debate and panel and round table discussions.

Georgia Branch Of Party Reorganizes For Campaign

THE Georgia branch of the National Woman's Party was reorganized April 1 at a luncheon meeting at the Georgian Terrace Hotel in Atlanta, attended by a group of outstanding women who enthusiastically pledged their efforts to the campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Mildred Seydell, Atlanta Georgian columnist, Woman's Party publicity chairman and an ardent advocate and worker for the Equal Rights Amendment, presided and introduced Mrs. Clara Snell Wolfe, National organization chairman for the Party. Mrs. Seydell, who is head of the Georgia Advisory Committee, outlined the purpose of the meeting and paid a tribute to the effective work of Mrs. Wolfe, who during the past two years has visited nearly every state in the Union in the interest of equal rights.

"I have always been most enthusiastic about the work of the National Woman's Party," said Mrs. Seydell. "It is the one organization that is single-minded and does not waste time and energy on a lot of issues —though worthy—that do not pertain to the securing of equal rights. It is no political party; it has no political affiliations. It does sponsor legislation that will be beneficial to women, and its principal aim is the passing of the amendment now before Congress: 'Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.' How can any fair-minded person be against such a proposal? Equal Rights! Our very Constitution is based on this principle. Women have already served their apprenticeship and proved their strength and ability . . . It is to the best interest of civilization that women should have equal rights before the law with the other half of the race—the men."

Referring to the threadbare statement that "Woman's place is in the home taking care of her household and her children," Mrs. Seydell said: "You might as well say to a business man: 'Your duty is to stay in your office. Leave the running of your community to paid politicians. You just make the money to pay them and they'll take care of you.' Unfortunately this is happening in too many communities, but the best run, men and women alike, have minds and hearts for duty, unselfish service, service outside their own homes and offices.

"Women who are lazy-minded and care not a threepence for what's happening to their sisters, so long as they don't have to suffer themselves, are scarcely any more in their homes minding their children, having babies, than their sisters who are actively interested in equal rights. There are parties, bridge, clubs galore that lure them from their firesides."

The mother of two sons and the grandmother of a five-week-old granddaughter, Mrs. Seydell said: "To the right-thinking woman, the more she loves her children, the more she is willing to work and sacrifice for better government, wider opportunities."

Officers of the Georgia branch of the Woman's Party, as reorganized by Mrs. Wolfe, are Mrs. J. W. Swaggerty, Atlanta, chairman; Mrs. Frank Rackley, Waynesboro, vice-chairman; Mrs. Olivia Kitchen, Albany, secretary-treasurer.

A resolution was adopted commending Senator Walter F. George, of Georgia, for his support of Senate Resolution No. 82, urging the United States delegation to the I. L. O. in June to vote against the proposal to restrict the right of certain women to contract for their employment. Another resolution adopted commended Representative Ben Gibbs, of Georgia, for his support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Several women's organizations were represented. Among those present were Mrs. Dolly Lee Butler, chairman of resolutions; Mrs. Agnes DeFoor, Mrs. Marvin Medlock, Miss Courtney Carswell and Miss Caroline Barnes, of the Women Lawyers' Club, both local and national officers; Mrs. John D. Evans, president, and Mrs. E. Stewart, chairman, Fifth District Women's Clubs; Mrs. William P. Dunn, Georgia Women's Democratic Club; Miss Annette F. Lynch, Fulton County Woman's Democratic Club; Mrs. James H. Barnes, Mrs. William Ray, Mrs. William Gober, Miss Tommie Parrish, president Women's Chamber of Commerce; Miss Carey Singleton, Pilot Club; Mrs. J. Hinton Clark, Mrs. Annie E. Werber, Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. R. F. Adamson, Miss Georgie Pruitt, Miss Victoria Wilbanks, legal department WPA; Miss Mabel Loeb, Miss Virginia A. Pairo, Mrs. Ruth Pattillo, Miss Hazel Royce Ray, Mrs. Lafayette Butler, Mrs. Marjorie P. Aremdola, Miss Nancy Branyon.

First Jamaican Women's Conference

At the first Jamaican Conference held February 20-21 at the Collegiate Hall, Kingston, under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Club, the first woman councilor was elected in that island republic, and took her seat March 13. On this occasion her men colleagues extended a warm welcome and the Mayor presented her with a bouquet.

At the conference the principal speaker was Mrs. Edith How-Martyn, M.Sc.F. I. P. A., Chairman Suffragette Fellowship, London, England. Mrs. How-Martyn, was on the London Council at one time and worked for Suffrage in England with Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst. Her subject was "Women's Place in Politics."

Resolutions adopted called on the Government to alter the condition for Woman Suffrage so that women may vote on equal terms with men; to make women eligible to stand for the Legislative Council on equal terms with men and to appoint as soon as possible women Justices of Peace, Women Jurors, Police Women, and to appoint more women to responsible posts in the Civil Service.

Delaware Bills Withdrawn

Delaware's iniquitous 44-hour bill, seeking to limit the hours of work for women, but not of their male competitors, was removed from the Delaware House Calendar on March 27.

The action came after the Delaware Branch of the Woman's Party had conducted an effective campaign against the measure, enlisting the aid of many women's organizations and of the Chamber of Commerce and inspiring the introduction of a bill similar to that limiting the hours of women, but applying only to men workers. Following withdrawal of the bill affecting only women, Senator Derrickson, introducer of the measure applying to men, withdrew his proposal.

Executive Council Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Council of the Woman's Party will be held April 22-23 at National Headquarters.

The question of dues, recently before the Council, will again be under consideration.

World Party Officer En Route To Geneva

SAILING April 8 on the S. S. American Merchant for Europe, Marie Moore Forrest, of Washington, Chairman of Processions and Pageants for the new World Woman's Party, is enroute to Geneva, Switzerland, where she will complete plans for the first world procession of women scheduled in connection with the opening of the World Woman's Party.

Mrs. Forrest precedes Alice Paul, founder and chairman of the World Woman's Party, who is still in this country but plans to sail at an early date.

Before proceeding to Geneva, Mrs. Forrest will meet women leaders in Brussels, where she will be entertained at the American Consulate, in London and The Hague. Her work in Geneva will include direction of the ceremonies on the occasion of the formal opening of the World Woman's Party Headquarters the last week in May; arranging for a delegation of women in the professions and industries to the International Labor Conference in June; dramatization during the summer of historic incidents in the Woman Movement; and a pilgrimage of women to ask for equality for women during the meeting of the League of Nations Assembly in September.

The first of the initial delegation of twenty-five American women who will go to Geneva to participate in the opening of the World Woman's Party Headquarters, Mrs. Forrest will work out the details of the plan for the opening ceremonies in which delegations from thirty or more countries as well as representatives of ten international women's organizations will take part.

Alice Paul, Chairman of the World Woman's Party, in New York to wish Mrs. Forrest *Bon Voyage*, said: "We are greatly encouraged by the number of women who are offering to share in our work in Geneva. We believe that the procession of women through the streets of Geneva will call attention to the present lack of representation of women in world affairs and to the handicap which prevents their making their full contribution to the progress of humanity. We believe this demonstration will mark a forward step in the history of the Woman Movement."

Mrs. Forrest, at the pier, where a group of women leaders had assembled to wish her Godspeed, stated in an interview, "When threats of war are being hurled back and forth in Europe, I am particularly glad to take part in a movement in which the women of all countries are joining to support a great principle of human freedom—equal rights.

"In Geneva, governments meet to take action that profoundly affects the position of women in all countries. We hope by dramatizing not only the needs of women, but also the contribution which women have made to the world, to influence the International Labor Organization and the League of Nations to safeguard the rights of women in all treaties and to recognize equality."

Before leaving Washington, the District of Columbia Branch of the Woman's Party, of which Mrs. Forrest is chairman, entertained at a tea in her honor at national headquarters.

Distinguished British Guests At Alva Belmont House

Distinguished guests at Alva Belmont House recently were Victor Duval and his charming young daughter, Elizabeth, of London, England.

Mr. Duval, militant leader of the Men's Suffrage Group of England, was arrested and imprisoned many times as a result of his activities in helping British women to secure the vote. Recounting a few of his interesting experiences, he told of the determined group of men who banded together and joined in the militant campaign, led by the Pankhursts and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence. "We sent representatives to every meeting attended by a Cabinet Officer," he said, "and plied him with questions about the injustice of denying women the vote."

He recalled one especially important meeting where he and several other men addressed the gathering through a skylight of the immense hall and were enabled to complete their protests without being detected, despite the fact that the police and fire departments were appealed to for assistance. In order to accomplish their purpose, he said, it was necessary for them to lie flat on the roof of the building for a day and night prior to the meeting, concealing themselves near the skylight, which was not visible from the street. Mr. Duval has stood as a Liberal candidate for Parliament three times, but was not elected, "perhaps," as one English woman put it, "and really because of his work for women. Such reactions are not unusual."

Miss Duval, who is a talented singer, was presented at Court in England last year. A recent issue of the Suffragette Fellowship features her giving a golden key to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, foremost British feminist and author of "My Part in a Changing World." Her mother, Una Duval, is a member of the W. S. P. U.

Guests at a tea given by Burnita Shelton Matthews, Legal Counsel for the Party and a member of the I. L. O. Committee of Experts on Women's Work, Mr. Duval and his daughter were greeted by a number of American leaders in the woman movement.

Buy Equal Rights Seals!

Are your letters carrying Equal Rights Seals, the messengers traversing the length and breadth of the nation, fighting for Democracy for women?

Steadily the number of users of the Seal grows. Women know that peaceful wars can be successfully waged; that a correct idea, presented until it takes root, can win a campaign. The Seal represents such a campaign, and everyone who believes in this cardinal principle of Democracy—that the law must be equal in its application—can help win the battle women are waging for a full share in Democracy, by continued use of the Seal. The Equal Rights Amendment is a live issue in the nation today. Women—North, South, East and West—are rallying to its support just as they rallied to support of the Suffrage Amendment when sentiment for it, smoldering through the years, burst into the flame which brought success.

International events should bring home to the United States the startling fact that American women are fighting for Democracy, for which the country stands. Those who believe in it, believe in it for *all citizens.*

Buy Equal Rights Seals—use them!

Victory Scored Against I. L. O. Treaty Proposal

(Continued from Page 59)

International organizations protesting the Treaty at Geneva were Equal Rights International, International Abolitionist Federation, International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Women Magistrates, Barristers and Members of other Branches of the Legal Profession, Open Door International, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World's Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The proposed Treaty came up for its first discussion at the I. L. O. Conference in Geneva in 1938 and is due for final consideration at the I. L. O. Conference in Geneva in June of this year. The United States Department of Labor, as leader of the American delegation at the Conference last year, failed to oppose the Treaty and this year refused to take a position, on the ground that the United States has no indigenous workers.

Senator Capper, of Kansas, impressed by the seriousness of the situation and the threat to American women, introduced in the Senate the resolution reading:

"Whereas there is pending before the International Labor Organization at Geneva a proposed Convention on Regulation of contracts of indigenous workers which would impose a lower standard of working conditions on many American workers, and in particular, upon many American women workers: Therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the Senate request the United States delegation to the June Conference of the International Labor Organization to oppose the adoption of the above convention."

The Resolution, which was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, where it still remains, drew powerful support from individuals, high officials and organizations.

The Treaty proposed to regulate contracts of employment of native workers in dependent territories. Special limitation of the work of native women was proposed by permitting married women to enter contracts only for "employment not involving departure from their usual place of residence, or . . . in the same undertaking as their husbands, or in the same neighborhood, or as domestic servants."

Opponents of the proposal maintain that the United States was urged to join the I. L. O. on the theory that it would aid in raising world standards to meet America's standard, and therefore must, if consistent, oppose the Treaty as out of line with American standards and principles.

The victory against the discriminatory Treaty proposal is particularly significant in that it has halted at the source the first effort to restrict by world agreement the right of women to contract for their employment. It comes at a time when the World Woman's Party is about to open its headquarters in Geneva, and serves to emphasize the need for such an organization to stand guard over the rights of women of the world in the very city where representatives of nations of the world deliberate and formulate international policies and agreements.

Toe-less Shoes But Pointless Bill

Representative W. Randall Smart, Kansas City lawyer, has introduced in the Missouri legislature a bill proposing to ban the sale of toe-less and heel-less shoes for women during spring, fall and winter.

According to a Kansas City dispatch, women of the state vigorously protested the attempt to legislate in the matter of feminine wearing apparel.

Hazel M. Sheehan, president of the Business Women's Democratic Club, said that women's individual rights are at stake and announced plans for a march on the state capital at Jefferson City, to protest.

The attitude of Missouri women is that while the shoes may be toe-less, the bill is pointless.

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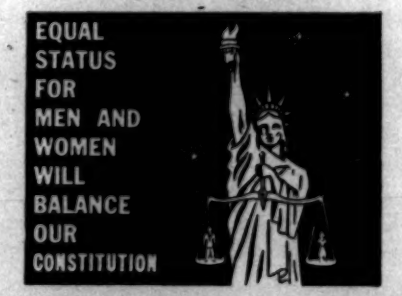

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A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

THE DEAD LETTER OF THE LAW

SOMETIMES it seems as if the law—the dead letter of the law—got hold of men's minds and squeezed out of them all spirit, all desire for fair play, and all understanding of human beings, and entangled them in a web of technicalities. "The letter killeth but the spirit giveth life," is as true in the law as in religion.

The New York City Bar Association has looked at the letter so hard that it has forgotten the spirit, at any rate as regards justice for women. Its Committee on Federal Legislation has recently sent an unfavorable report on the Equal Rights Amendment to the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The two main objections to the Amendment in the eyes of these New York jurists are that the matter is one for State action and that the Amendment would over-burden the Federal Courts with legislation.

Both are petty objections considering the importance of the subject to women of the United States.

If this were a question concerning some of the fundamental rights of men, these lawyers would not comment upon it so dispassionately. If these same men faced for themselves over a thousand discriminations in the laws of the various states, they would be among the first to recommend Federal action. But since this matter does not concern them it seems too unimportant to be clarified by a Federal Amendment and the plea for States rights is a very convenient one when there is a desire to get rid of a troublesome subject quickly without deep analysis.

Why should lawyers fear injecting "Federal legislation into a State's own law on any subject in which the rights of men and women are involved?" Why should they fear this because it is "a very broad field," and conclude with deadly caution, "The prudent course would seem to be to continue attacking specific objectionable statutes, rather than resort to a blanket amendment which would intrude the Federal Constitution into matters which are properly of State concern."

If the basic rights of half the citizens of the United States are not the concern of the Federal Government, it is hard to understand what is. Three Federal Amendments were necessary to free the negro, to give him in so far as possible the protection of the law and the right to vote. Women have been given the right to vote by Federal Amendment. They are still waiting for a Federal Amendment which will wipe out every vestige of a "defect of sex" which English Common Law fastened upon them. They ask for this at this crucial time in world history so that they can be protected from the sort of thing that has happened to women in Fascist countries, and the gentlemen of the New York Bar find themselves so entangled in the technicalities of the law that they do not recognize justice.

These New York City lawyers also seem unduly worried over the litigation which they fear the Equal Rights Amendment will bring into the already overburdened Federal Courts. This sudden eagerness for less litigation is hard to understand. On the other hand there are able lawyers who say that the litigation resulting from this Federal Amendment would be less than is now caused by numerous State laws concerning women. In any case litigation to bring the spirit of justice into the law as regards women would not be amiss.

The report of the Committee on Legislation for the New York City Bar Association lacks any sign or even spark of interest in justice for women. We know that there are many individual members of that Association who value justice, liberty, and equal opportunity and want these for their daughters as well as for their sons. We hope they will speak out.

'We Should Fight It,' Says Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, in her column My Day, under a Los Angeles (California) date line of March 31, says: "I was interested in the forum period after my lecture last night, when I was asked again the question: 'Why is such a concerted effort being made to eliminate married women workers from industry and the professions?'"

"I feel, of course," says the wife of the President, "that this effort is as yet, not very vigorous in this country, but we should fight it, for it is based on misunderstanding. The proportion of married women working is very small in comparison to the total unemployment problem. Unless you eliminate all women working, which would mean that a number of women who are now earning their own living and supporting dependents, would become burdens on the communities, you would make no appreciable dent in unemployment. This fear of unemployment is forcing us into an unconsidered and un-American attitude toward working women."

At National Headquarters

Spending the Easter week-end in Washington conferring with officers of the Woman's Party and interviewing members of Congress in the interest of the Equal Rights Amendment were Mrs. Louis Underwood Bruyere, Chairman of the Party Toledo Branch; her daughter, Isabel Bruyere, a senior in the University of Michigan; Agnes B. Platt, also a member of the Toledo Branch, and Olive Hurlburt, Michigan Chairman.

The party arrived in time to greet Victor Duval and his daughter, Elizabeth, of London, England, during their brief visit to Alva Belmont House. In Washington they were guests at National Headquarters.

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